

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 52

By Yarbrow

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Coach Tim Corbin and the Vanderbilt Commodores upon winning the 2014 NCAA Baseball National Championship.

WHEREAS, in a brilliant display of confidence, tenacity, and coaching, the Vanderbilt Commodores achieved one of the most difficult feats in all of athletic competition when they captured the 2014 College World Series to win the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Baseball Championship; and

WHEREAS, led by Coach Tim Corbin, the Commodores won their first national championship for baseball before a crowd of 18,344 at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, Nebraska, on June 25, 2014, as they defeated the Virginia Cavaliers 3-2 to reach the pinnacle of college baseball and add a very special chapter to the program's history; and

WHEREAS, once again earning entrance to NCAA post season play, Vanderbilt was selected to host a first round Regional at Hawkins Field and subsequently defeated the Musketeers of Xavier University 11-0 and the University of Oregon Ducks twice by scores of 7-2 and 3-2 with Ro Coleman hitting a bases-loaded, pinch-hit single in the bottom of the ninth to advance the Commodores to the Super Regional round; and

WHEREAS, in the Super Regional, the Commodores faced the Stanford University Cardinal in a three game series at the Hawk and punched their ticket to Omaha after winning the first game 11-6, losing a close 4-5 contest in the second game, and then sealing the deal with a resounding 12-5 victory in the third and final game; and

WHEREAS, advancing to the College World Series, Vandy joined an elite group of eight teams in the double-elimination tournament that saw them defeat the University of Louisville

Cardinals 5-3 and the University of California-Irvine Anteaters 6-4 to advance to the semi-finals against the University of Texas Longhorns; and

WHEREAS, after suffering a loss in the first game against Texas, the Vanderbilt Commodores thrilled fans around the globe by advancing to the finals of the College World Series for the first time in school history with a heart-stopping 4-3 victory over the Longhorns; and

WHEREAS, facing the heavily favored Cavaliers of the University of Virginia, the Vandy Boys rose to the challenge, exploding for nine runs in the third inning as Tyler Campbell doubled twice while the team batted around to stake the Commodores to a huge lead; and

WHEREAS, fending off a valiant Cavalier comeback, the Vandy bullpen closed the door on Virginia to gain a 9-8 victory in game one as Jared Miller got the win after pitching two innings of relief with Adam Ravenelle picking up the save; and

WHEREAS, in game two, the Commodores could not surmount the Cavaliers' overpowering pitching as Virginia took a 7-2 win to force a winner-take-all third game for the national championship; and

WHEREAS, playing for the title of "National Champions", the Commodores struck early as Dansby Swanson raced across home plate to score in the bottom of the first inning as he and teammate Bryan Reynolds' double steal caused the Virginia catcher to commit a throwing error, bringing in the run; and

WHEREAS, Vandy added a second run in the top of the sixth inning as John Norwood hit an infield single and advanced on another Virginia error before coming home on a deep grounder to shortstop by Vince Conde; and

WHEREAS, held scoreless for the first five innings by the outstanding pitching of Vanderbilt's Carson Fulmer, Virginia tied the game with two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning as both teams battled tooth and nail for any advantage; and

WHEREAS, with one out in the top of the eighth inning, Vanderbilt outfielder John Norwood answered the prayers of every member of Vandy Nation as he connected with Virginia

pitcher Nick Howard's 97 mph fastball and launched it into the left field bullpen for a towering home run; and

WHEREAS, Vandy would hold that one-run lead to win the final game of the College World Series, stopping Virginia's attempted rally in the bottom of the eighth inning as the Cavaliers loaded the bases with only one out, and Vandy then clinched the championship in the bottom of the ninth inning as Adam Ravenelle recorded a strikeout for the third and final out; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt's remarkable championship performance earned the team's players several individual accolades as Tyler Campbell, John Norwood, Rhett Wiseman, and Dansby Swanson were deservedly named to the College World Series All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, Commodore Dansby Swanson's flawless defense, timely hitting, and fearlessness on the base paths won him selection as the 2014 College World Series Most Outstanding Player in recognition of his .323 batting average, five runs scored, two runs batted in, and three stolen bases; and

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt Commodores' quality pitching, staunch defense, and aggressive play set the standard for college baseball in 2014 as the team completed the season with an enviable 51-21 record; and

WHEREAS, the remarkable young men who comprise the Vanderbilt Commodores' championship baseball team are Tyler Beede, Ben Bowden, Walker Buehler, Tyler Campbell, Ro Coleman, Vince Conde, Will Cooper, Jason Delay, Karl Ellison, Tyler Ferguson, Carson Fulmer, Tyler Green, Chris Harvey, Ryan Johnson, John Kilichowski, Aubrey McCarty, Brian Miller, Jared Miller, Penn Murfee, John Norwood, Drake Parker, T.J. Pecoraro, Adam Ravenelle, Bryan Reynolds, Steven Rice, Nolan Rogers, Jordan Sheffield, Kyle Smith, Luke Stephenson, Hayden Stone, Dansby Swanson, Xavier Turner, Zander Wiel, and Rhett Wiseman; and

WHEREAS, considered by many to be one of the finest baseball coaches in America at any level, Vanderbilt Head Coach Tim Corbin is committed to developing quality young men as well as a winning baseball program; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Coach Tim Corbin, the Commodores enjoy the commitment to excellence and support of Pitching Coach Scott Brown, Assistant Coach Travis Jewett, Volunteer Assistant Coach Drew Hedman, Athletic Trainer Chris Ham, Director of Baseball Operations Drew Fann, Strength Coach Davis Macias, Administrative Assistant Keri Richardson, and Equipment Manager Garrett Walker; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly and Commodore fans everywhere take great pride in honoring this extraordinary group of young men who have contributed immeasurably to the growing legacy of Vanderbilt University baseball; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Tim Corbin and the Vanderbilt University Commodores upon winning the 2014 NCAA Baseball National Championship and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to each of the above-named persons with this final clause omitted from such copies.